

Many librarians and libraries are doing everything they can to stop the digital locks, books that self-destruct, and budget cuts that threaten the modern library. When it comes to technology however, libraries are pushed to give up more control to publishers, especially where e-books and multimedia are involved.

E-books cannot replace paper, but they do offer an easier, less expensive, more inclusive way for authors of all ages to publish. Done properly, e-books offer the ability to make and distribute copies in an instant, from almost anywhere in the world to almost anywhere else.

As CD's made the production of records cheaper but each copy rose in cost to consumers, e-books make the publishing of books cheaper but offer a less durable, less tangible product.

Good e-books can be copied, and preserved through backups. Most commercial e-books are designed to destroy themselves, or be destroyed by the publisher some time after sale.

**Designing books to self-destruct is an unethical attack on culture.** There is no reasonable excuse for the embrace of such technology by the same institutions dedicated to preserving culture. **Keene Free Library provides alternatives** to this trend.

Until now, Free culture and Free software have been largely separate movements.

**The Free Software Foundation**, founded in Boston in 1985, has worked to liberate computer users from control by artificial limitations on software, and from imposed flaws in privacy, security, and design.

**Creative Commons**, founded in 2001 by Lawrence Lessig, provides licenses for cultural works that allow authors and artists to publish without either giving total control to monopolies.

When authors, artists and engineers participate in Free software and Free culture, it gives basic liberties back to the public that ultimately funds them.

Neither Creative Commons, nor the FSF are fully dedicated to the liberation of both computing and culture, but **together they provide the tools necessary to forge the Free Library** of the 21st century.

The Free Library Movement combines and applies these two noble efforts, in the struggle to save our local libraries from conflicting interests and corporate control. When authors, artists, and audience work together to bring culture into the modern library, everybody wins.

Keene Free Library is not a single physical location, nor a chain, nor is it merely a virtual library. It is part of a social justice movement to create libraries that offer the **freedom to study, shape, and share** our culture.

An online presence is an important step, but physical locations (with trained assistants to the patrons) are equally important.

**All works in the Free Library may be copied, altered (with attribution) and accessed freely.**

Some works may be sold and resold, but all may be copied and remixed free of charge. Donations are acceptable, as are grants and sponsors, where they do not conflict with the goal of the library to offer unfettered access.

**Save our libraries**, make them free again.

Visit [keenefreelibrary.hostoi.com](http://keenefreelibrary.hostoi.com) to find books, music, film, and other works that are a part of our free culture, and to learn how you can be part of a truly modern free library.

How can we create a future where libraries allow the same free access to culture that we enjoyed in the previous century? Publishers will (at least in part) move away from paper, e-books will (at least in part) be part of an attack on our right to read and loan books.

Extremist copyright extension, both in scope and duration, threatens our ability to preserve any cultural works that are not already in the public domain.

Two things, in combination can save our culture: Free software, and Free culture.

**Free software**, or rather software unfettered by proprietary designs or proprietary licenses, will enable us to again use our computers without the draconian controls put in place by publishers.

“Free software” refers to freedom, not price.

**Free culture** licenses on books, music, and multimedia will stop the erosion of creative freedom and access to our culture. Publishing monopolies cannot be trusted to offer the freedom that libraries once did, and such freedom was never before offered to authors, but can be offered today.

“Free culture” refers to freedom, not price.

***Save our libraries...***  
*make them free again*

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Keene Free Library has waived all  
copyright and related or neighboring  
rights to this work.

<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0>

**Keene Free Library**



*The foundation of every library  
is preservation and access of  
data, culture, and the  
community that uses it...*

**What should we do when  
libraries begin to fail in  
their mission?**